



**MEDICAL CARE POLICY ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

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Parris N. Glendening
Governor

April 21, 1999

Martin P. Wasserman, M.D., J.D.
Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 10**

Managed Care Organizations

FROM: Susan Tucker, Acting Director

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

Pharmacy Requirements for Recipients with Developmental Disabilities

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is proposing substantial changes to COMAR 10.22 Developmental Disabilities as published in the Md. Reg., August 14, 1998. It is expected that these regulations will become effective during April, 1999. These changes will, among other things, establish health and safety requirements for agencies providing medication to individuals residing in homes or sites licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). In COMAR 10.22.12D, the new regulations establish certain requirements for pharmacies with regard to special packaging and record keeping in connection with the administration of medications by DDA licensed homes.

Prior to HealthChoice, pharmacies provided services such as special packaging, and accepted the Medicaid pharmacy reimbursement amount which includes a dispensing fee as sufficient compensation. With HealthChoice, many of these recipients are in managed care and the MCOs are responsible for seeing that these services are provided. The Department expects the MCOs to provide appropriate coverage to pharmacies to ensure compliance with the new DDA regulations. The Department believes that the capitation rate which is based on historic payments is sufficient to allow coverage for these services.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Manager for Pharmacy Services at 410-767-1455.